

# Additional Stewards Report



Stewards: - J. Petzer (Chairman), P. Ryan & S. Callanan

**Tuesday, 02 April 2024**

## Wayne Walters

Stewards concluded an inquiry into the circumstances relating to alleged conduct on the part of licensed Trainer Mr. Wayne Walters on Friday, 22 March 2024 at the Mount Gambier Racecourse during a post-race interview, following the running of Race 8 on that day. Stewards heard evidence from Mr. Walters, and had regard for the relevant record of interview Mr. Walters had with Racing.com.

After considering the evidence Stewards charged Mr. Walters under the provisions of **AR228(a)**, a rule which deals with conduct prejudicial to the image, interests and welfare of racing, the particulars of the charge being that;

Mr. Wayne Walters, a licensed Trainer, engaged in conduct prejudicial to the image and interests of racing on Friday 22 March 2024 at the Mount Gambier Race Club during a post-race interview with Racing.com, the said prejudicial conduct being that he stated at the commencement of that interview - "Track's shit and they raced accordingly".

**Plea:** Mr. Walters pleaded guilty to the charge.

**Finding:** On a balance of the evidence Stewards found Mr. Walters guilty of the charge.

In determining penalty Stewards had regard for Mr. Walter's record, his forthrightness at the inquiry, his contrition for his conduct, his guilty plea, and his longstanding involvement in the industry. However, Stewards also considered;

- as a licensed person, it was totally inappropriate for Mr. Walters to make the comment he did about the track.
- comments of this type have the distinct and real potential to cause prejudice to the image and interests of racing.
- as a licensed person, Mr. Walters had other avenues to address matters of concern he may have had with the track.
- his comments which were unprovoked and were made of his own free will, lack the level of decorum expected of participants in the industry.
- the serious nature of the breach,
- Individual and general deterrence, particularly, that any conduct which has the potential/capacity to be, or is, prejudicial to the image and interests of racing requires a penalty which not only acts as a punishment for the offence, but will also act in a manner to prevent the person subject to the penalty from engaging in similar conduct in future.

In all the circumstances Stewards imposed the following penalty;

**Penalty** - A fine of \$2,000. Stewards further ordered under the provisions of AR283(5) that \$1,000 of the fine be suspended for a period of 2 years provided Mr. Walters is not found guilty of a conduct related matter during that period.

Mr. Walters was informed of his right of appeal.

**J Petzer**  
General Manager Integrity